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## SUICIDE OF SENOR BARCA.

THE SPANISH MINISTER KILLS HIMSELF.  
DEPT. SUPPOSED TO BE THE CAUSE—A MORNING DISCOVERY AT THE ALBEMARLE HOTEL.

Senor Don Francisco Barca, Spanish Minister to the United States since April 1881, shot himself to death in a chamber of the Albemarle Hotel, at Broadway and Twenty-fourth-st., shortly before daylight yesterday. He had spent the night till 2 a. m. at work with a secretary, whom he dismissed with injunctions to call again at 6 o'clock and accompany him to mass. The secretary, returning at the appointed hour, found the Minister dead in his room. He had sent a ball from a forty-one calibre revolver through his brain. The wife and daughter of Senor Barca, who were at Seabright, were summoned to the city. With them the dead Minister had intended to sail for Spain on Wednesday of this week. The suicide is supposed to have resulted from deep indebtedness in which the Minister involved himself. Washington society was greatly shocked by the news of his death.

## HOW THE MINISTER SHOT HIMSELF.

WRITING LETTERS TILL NEARLY DAYBREAK—AN ENGAGEMENT TO GO TO MASS UNKEPT.

It was nearly daybreak when William Woodruff, the night clerk at the Albemarle Hotel, heard a loud noise. He was half asleep in the office on the ground floor of the hotel, and it seemed to him that the noise came from the closed bar-room on the same floor. The corks of soda-water bottles occasionally are blown out in the night time, and Woodruff thought that the report heard by him was caused by such an explosion. He took no steps to ascertain the cause of the noise. Daylight soon came through the windows of the hotel office. The gas was turned off in the building and servants began to make their appearance in the halls. It was a few minutes after 5 a. m. when Professor Manuel S. Suarez, of No. 34 Greenwich-ave., entered the office and inquired for Senor Don Francisco Barca, the Spanish Minister at Washington, who had been staying in the hotel since July 20. Professor Suarez is a Spaniard, of middle age, with dark gray hair, mustache and goatee. He was recognized at once by Woodruff as a friend of the Minister, who had been at the hotel late on Saturday night and had gone away again about 2 a. m. Mr. Suarez said he had an engagement to attend early mass with the Minister. The clerk said that Minister Barca had not made his appearance, and he nodded assent when the professor indicated his intention to go up stairs without any further formality.

## DISCOVERY OF THE SUICIDE.

Minister Barca's rooms were a front parlor and an adjoining bed-chamber on the first floor almost directly over the hotel entrance in Broadway. The large window of the parlor overlooks Madison Square and is draped with lace curtains. The room itself is large and well furnished, like the other private parlors on this floor. The bedroom is much smaller, but is large enough to contain a double bed, a wardrobe, a dressing case and a writing desk. When Mr. Suarez knocked at the hall door leading to the rooms there was no response. The door was unlocked, however, and after waiting a few moments he entered the parlor, thinking that the Minister might have gone to another part of the hotel. Everything in the parlor appeared to be in the same condition as when he left it about three hours before. The door of the bed-chamber was open, and Mr. Suarez caught sight of a human figure lying on the floor. It was the dead body of Minister Barca.

A brief examination was sufficient to convince Mr. Suarez that the Minister had committed suicide. On the bed, the coverings of which had been only slightly disturbed, was a pool of blood. A large revolver, with one chamber discharged, lay on the counterpane. The body of the Minister was in a crouching posture, the head resting against one of the bed-posts, the arms drooping at the sides of the chest and the legs drawn up on the floor. From the position of the body it was evident that the man had shot himself while lying on the bed and that he afterward had risen only to fall upon the floor.

## THE BLOOD SPATTERED THROUGH AND THROUGH.

His death must quickly have followed the shot. The bullet from the revolver had entered his forehead half an inch above the right eye and had gone directly through the large lobes of the brain, lodging at the back of the head. Traces of blood were found on the skin showed that he had held the weapon close to his forehead. The body was dressed in the black suit which the Minister had worn on the previous day. Even the cuffs and collar of his shirt were still on, showing that he had not made any preparations for going to sleep. On the writing table in the room were twenty sealed letters, in envelopes bearing the official stamp of the Spanish Embassy. One of them was addressed to the Spanish Consul-General, Miguel Suarez, at the Hotel Espanol, No. 116 West Fourteenth-st. The others bore the names of his wife and of various acquaintances.

When the Spanish Minister occupied the room on July 20 he was alone, his wife and daughter having gone to Seabright as guests of Jose F. de Navarro. Much of his time had been spent in the room, where he was visited frequently by Spanish acquaintances in the city. After eating his dinner at the usual time on Saturday afternoon he went out for a walk. About 7 p. m. he took the key to his rooms, stopping to talk for a few moments with the hotel clerk. He appeared to be in good spirits at the time. He was writing that night in his bed chamber. Mr. Suarez called at 11 p. m. to talk about a pair of horses which Minister Barca had brought to this city from Washington and intended to sell. Their conversation continued until 2 a. m., when Mr. Suarez went away with the understanding that he was to return in time to attend 6 o'clock mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

## PREPARING FOR AN INVESTIGATION.

Without waiting to inform the hotel clerks of his discovery Mr. Suarez hastened at once to the Hotel Espanol to summon the Spanish Consul-General. That officer drove as quickly as possible to the Albemarle Hotel, and took charge of the dead Minister's properties in the rooms. At his request the professor went to the Thirtieth-st. police station and gave information there of the suicide. Roundsman Cross was sent to make an investigation. He located on taking possession of the revolver, a handsome weapon of 41-calibre, manufactured by the Colt Arms Company. It was coated with blood. He also sent information to Coroner Martin, who was in his house, No. 168 West Twenty-third-st. The coroner did not arrive at the hotel until 9 a. m. He gave a permit to Undertaker J. F. Clark, of No. 203 West Twenty-third-st., to prepare the body of the suicide for burial. The Consul-General had left the hotel, taking with him the letters written by the Minister. Coroner Martin gave notice that he would begin a preliminary investigation at 3 p. m., and he wished the Consul-General and Professor Suarez to be present in the hotel at that hour. The hotel clerks refused to admit any persons to the rooms occupied by the Minister, except the undertaker, before 3 p. m. The furniture of the bed-chamber was removed in the meantime, and the body of Minister Barca was placed in a walnut ice-box in the room. It was said that a telegram had been sent to the wife of the dead man, asking her to start for New-York immediately.

## SUSPICIONS AS TO THE CAUSE OF THE DEED.

A coachman in the employ of the family was at the hotel in the forenoon. He hinted that the Minister had been dealing in stocks in Wall-st., and had been acting strangely for a day or two previous to his death.

Consul-General Suarez went to the Albemarle Hotel again before 3 p. m. and had a consultation with Coroner Martin. He told the Coroner, in confidence, what the Minister had written to him in the letter found after the shooting. Portions of the letter were in relation to official business which the Consul-General thought ought not to be made public. So far as the letter threw light upon the cause of the suicide, however, Coroner Martin made the following statement: "The substance of the letter is that the Minister committed suicide on account of indebtedness. He lived a fast life at Washington, entertaining hosts of such friends as Ministers of foreign legations. The expenses of these entertainments were so heavy that he was unable to meet his obligations."

Neither Senor Gomes, of the Brazilian Legation, nor the Count de Leyden, two intimate friends of the Minister, who were at Seabright with his family when the shocking deed was done, could assign any cause for the suicide. They declared that they knew nothing of the dead man's public or private business, but were sure that his family relations had been most happy. They had both seen him only a few days before, and then he had seemed to be in the best of spirits. He had told them that he intended to make a trip to Newport at the beginning of the month, and then laughingly remarked that he did not know how he would enjoy himself as he spoke such very bad English. His life in Washington had never caused a whisper of scandal, having been apparently a devoted husband and father. His wife was one of the best known faces at the levees at the White House and the receptions at the various legations, and when he received at his home it was regarded as an event in the social world.

THE MINISTER IN GOOD SPIRITS AT 2 A. M.  
Professor Manuel Suarez, while in this city, remained at the Albemarle Hotel until midnight. His duties were to answer letters in English which had been sent to Senor Barca, and he acted as an interpreter when it was necessary. Professor Suarez is a Cuban and a teacher of the Spanish language. He was disinclined to talk to a Tribune reporter last night, excusing himself by saying that his relations with Senor Barca had only been those of a secretary and he was not acquainted with any portion of his life. He said, however, that the suicide was a complete surprise to him, as when he left Senor Barca a few hours before his suicide he was apparently in as good health and spirits as he had ever seen him.

Consul-General Suarez at first refused to permit himself to be interrogated, but at 4 p. m. he yielded to the requests of the Coroner, and answered the inquiries of a number of reporters. He stated that the Minister had not lost money by speculation so far as he knew, and that no symptoms of insanity had been noticed. He said also that he had sent a telegram to Mrs. Barca early in the day, but no answer had been received. It was expected, however, that Mrs. Barca would arrive in the city soon to make arrangements for a funeral. Julia San Pedro, a maid of Mrs. Barca, arrived at the hotel from Washington in the forenoon, intending to go on to Seabright. She remained at the hotel by direction of the Consul-General.

Deputy Coroner Jenkins made an examination of Minister Barca's body at 4 p. m. and gave a certificate of death, on which the undertaker will procure a burial permit to-day. Coroner Martin announced that he would begin an inquest in the case at the Coroner's office on Wednesday. The body of the Minister remained at the hotel last night.

## SUMMONING WIFE AND DAUGHTER.

A CLOUD OVER A MERRY PARTY—NOW THE NEWS WAS BROKEN.

It was not until late in the morning that the news of Senor Barca's death reached Seabright. It was a happy party of guests that had gathered in Mr. Navarro's drawing room after breakfast, and they were all discussing Washington life with such appreciative humor that the laughter of the ladies rang merrily across the lawn which stretched away from the house. The party was composed of Senor Barca, his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Navarro, Senor Gomes of the Brazilian Legation, the Count de Leyden and a few others. They had expected Senor Barca to join them early in the morning, but time passed without his appearance. Senor Barca gave no signs of anxiety, attributing it to some delay in his friends' journey, but it was necessary to complete for his Government. It was nearly noon when a messenger-boy rode up to the door asked for Mr. Navarro. He delivered a dispatch which had been sent by the Consul-General, announcing Senor Barca's suicide and begging him to break the news to his family. Mr. Navarro destroyed the message and then told Senor Barca that her husband had met with an accident, and was unable to come to Seabright. An inkling of the truth seemed to dawn on the wife, for she asked for the dispatch. Mr. Navarro made some excuse but it did not satisfy her. She urged for a further explanation and was finally told that her husband was seriously hurt and that it would be well for her to prepare to return to the city. When she was informed that Senor Barca's injuries were of a serious nature she lost control of herself and became hysterical.

THE NEWS BROKEN TO THE WIFE.  
The news that the man, who was so well-known to the little circle of friends, had taken his own life spread rapidly until every person in the house, with the exception of the widow was informed. Senorita Barca learned that her father was dead by the whispered conversation of her friends and fainted. When she recovered consciousness she was told how and when the Minister had died, and was warned not to hint anything of the kind to her mother, who was still hysterical. She restrained her tears as well as she could and cared for her mother.

The first person to whom Mr. Navarro told the news of the suicide was Mrs. Navarro. The wife of the suicide and herself had been friends for a long time, and she did all in her power to strengthen her friend for her sorrow. Senorita Barca and her daughter, accompanied by Senor Gomes and Count de Leyden took the 4 o'clock train for this city. At the time of her departure from Seabright, Senorita Barca had recovered from her hysteria, but had been so weakened by the nervous attack that it was necessary to half carry her into the train. She said but little while in the cars, but when the party arrived in the city she seemed to be quite unequal to the task of braving with little of her misfortunes she knew, and she again fainted.

## TOO WEAK TO BEAR THE STRAIN.

It was not until half-past 6 o'clock that the coach, in which were the widow and child, arrived at the hotel. The former was led to rooms some distance from those which were occupied by her husband. She at first demanded to see him, but was told that the physician had required absolute quiet for him. Again and again she demanded admittance, but it was as often refused. A doctor was called and morphine was administered. But even under the influence of the opiate she was delirious.

While the widow was being comforted, the daughter had entered the rooms where the suicide had taken place and was received by her old nurse and the Consul-General, who succeeded in pacifying her. The following doors, which separated the room in which the suicide had taken place, were closed and she was not permitted to see them. It was deemed advisable by the Consul-General not to give the letters which Senor Barca had addressed to his wife and daughter, to the latter until this morning, and in consequence he resorted to ignorance of the reasons that her father had for taking his life.

A few minutes after 10 o'clock Senorita Barca recovered from the influence of the morphine and again demanded to be admitted to her husband. It was then that she was told of Senor Barca's death. Contrary to the expectations of her friends she showed no signs of grief, but deeply and solemnly mourned her father's death. She remained in her room until late in the evening, when she was led to her room by Senor de Lome, the first secretary of the Spanish Legation. Senorita Barca was then given the letters

Continued on Fifth Page.

## KILLED BY AN EARTHQUAKE.

THREE THOUSAND LIVES LOST NEAR NAPLES.  
A HEALTH REPORT ON THE ISLAND OF ISCHIA DESTROYED—THE INJURED PLACED AT 800.

LONDON, July 29.—The town of Casamicciola, on the island of Ischia, near Naples, was almost entirely destroyed by an earthquake last night. The neighboring towns of Forio and Laccanello were severely damaged. One hundred persons more or less severely injured have arrived at Naples by steamers. The number of people killed is not known.

ROME, July 29.—The Minister of Public Works has gone to Casamicciola to organize measures of relief. The shocks began at half-past 9 o'clock last night. At that hour a majority of the people of the upper classes were at the theatre. Nearly all of the houses in the town collapsed. It is estimated that one thousand persons were killed and eight hundred injured. Several steamers have been brought into service to carry the injured to Naples. The impression produced by the disaster is indescribable. Many of the victims belong to good families.

NAPLES, July 29.—Steamers loaded with injured people constantly arriving here from the scene of the calamity. The hospitals are already filled with sufferers.

FLEEING FROM THE TOWN TO THE SEA.  
LONDON, July 30.—It is impossible as yet to give the number of the dead at Casamicciola. In the latest accounts the number is estimated at three thousand. The Hotel Piccola Sentinella sank in the earth and buried many of its inmates. Some of the inhabitants of the town escaped to the sea at the first shock and made their way to Naples, with the news of the calamity.

The centre of the area of the shock was the same as that of two years ago, but the radius was wider. The shock was felt at sea and, according to some accounts, even at Naples. A gentleman who was staying at the Hotel Piccola Sentinella, and who escaped with his life, relates that he only had time to secure some candles for use in the darkness of the ruins before the collapse of the building.

A person who lived near the now ruined bathing establishment says he escaped from the place amid falling walls and balconies, the terrified people shouting, "To the sea!"

The excitement in Italy may be imagined from the fact that there were 2,000 visitors in Ischia, including wealthy Roman and Neapolitan families and several Dapies, who were taking the baths there.

The ground opened in many places, while in other places there was no movement. Water gushed out of springs. Several boilers in the bathing-house burst. The theatre, which is a wooden structure, was literally torn open, allowing the audience to escape.

At Lacco there are many dead and wounded. At Forio the churches were ruined but no one was killed. At Serrara fifteen were killed. The troops have recovered the body of Signor Fiorentini, Prefect of Laccanello.

All steamers plying between Ischia and the mainland were immediately chartered by the Government to bring the wounded from the island.

None of the Deputies is known to have perished and it is hoped that all have escaped. An English chaplain lost one child. A Mr. Green and wife are among the killed at the Hotel Piccola.

Later telegrams state that all the hotels at Casamicciola are wrecked. The Minister of Public Works and the Prefect of Naples, with a large force of soldiers, hurried to the scene. The soldiers will work to render the ruins secure and will engage in a search for the wounded. A number of physicians have gone to attend the injured, their aid being urgently needed.

HORRIBLE SCENES.  
The stories told by the survivors are horrible. Many Romans having villas at Ischia are known to have been lost. The dead are fearfully mutilated. In some cases corpses are plainly discernible through the ruins, but they cannot be extracted. It is surmised that some persons are alive in the cellars. A correspondent telegraphs that judging from reports already at hand the calamity will infinitely exceed the Sicco earthquake in 1881.

ROME, July 30.—The Naples correspondent of the *Bersagliere* telegraphs as follows: "I have just returned from Ischia. Casamicciola, Lacco and Forio have been destroyed. They were three of the most flourishing communes on the island, which was half overthrown. The road between the towns of Ischia and Casamicciola is impassable." The Prefect of Naples telegraphs that the town of Casamicciola has ceased to exist.

The train from this city to Naples to-day was crowded with passengers going to inquire as to the fate of their friends. The Bishop of Casamicciola, Don Filippini, of Rome, and the Prefect of Laccanello, are reported to be on the island at the time of the disaster. None of the special dispatches mention American names among the killed or injured.

The Syndic of Casamicciola telegraphs as follows: "The shock came with irresistible violence and was accompanied by a deafening noise. The confusion in the theatre was fearful. Lights were overturned and set fire to the building. A dense cloud of dust filled the air. Cries of pain and terror were heard on all sides. I was hearing the shouts of 'To the sea!' great numbers were rushing to the shore. A heavy boat and floating timber was taken by assault."

Among the dead are Professor Palma, the Baroness Dirisela, Commander Zappetti, the wife and children of Signor Cecere, Sicilian, Ali and Martano. It is probable that the Marchioness Paola Laurati is also among the dead. A Miss More was saved.

## THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND—THE TOWN OF CASAMICCIOLA—RECENT EARTHQUAKES.

The island of Ischia, the scene of the earthquake, has been noted for its health-restoring baths for centuries. It lies on the southwest coast of Italy, fifteen miles from Naples, and during the summer tourists and invalids can take any one of several steamers which run from Naples to the island daily. In the winter communication is less frequent.

In its general shape the island resembles an egg. It is sixteen miles in circumference, and lies directly west of the Bay of Naples. The inhabitants all told number about 25,000. The leading towns are Casamicciola, where the greatest number of ruins was lost, situated something over a mile from the landing place for steamers on the north shore; Forio, on the west coast, and Ischia, on the northeast coast. Ischia is nearer Naples than either of the other towns, but the landing place is not good and hence Casamicciola is the terminus of the steamers' trips. Casamicciola lies at the foot of the Mount Epomeo, which rises to a height of 2,700 feet and commands a beautiful view of the Bay of Naples and Mount Vesuvius. The general direction of the elevation is east and west—with the island. Both Forio and Ischia are north of the mountains, and Laccanello is a small village near by.

The chief business of the people on the island is fishing and grape-growing, but the place has become famous through its medicinal baths, warm and cold springs being abundant, and possessing, it is asserted, great healing powers, particularly similar chronic ailments. These bathing establishments are grouped around Casamicciola, where there are several hotels, and in the summer the place is a favorite resort. When in its normal condition Casamicciola has a population of about 4,200, but this number is swelled at the season of the year by those who go there to try the effect of its baths. Forio, to the west, has nearly twice as many inhabitants, and Ischia has over 6,000.

The absence of anything in the disaster relative to the last named town indicates that the earthquake spent its force in the central and western portions of the island. This is not the first time that the place has suffered a loss of life from earthquakes. As recently as 1881 over 100 lives were lost and nearly 300 houses destroyed in Casamicciola, which was visited by two earthquakes seven days apart.

The last great earthquake occurred in April, 1881, when the villages in the island of Ischia, in the Bay of Naples, were destroyed by a succession of shocks, resulting

in the death of 4,000 persons and in destitution for those who survived.

## TWO INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## THE DEATH-RATE IN EGYPT HEAVY.

LONDON, July 29.—The deaths from cholera on Saturday numbered 322 at Cairo (including three British soldiers), 17 at Ziftah, 17 at Barrage, 84 at Bahalla, 81 at Shihba, 46 at Tanta, 51 at Ghizet, 22 at Mitkama, 14 at Zagazig, a total of 160 at various places in the provinces of Galloubieh, Bahariyah and Menoufiyah, and an aggregate of 39 at eleven other widely-scattered places. The recent report that cholera had appeared at Rostov is officially denied.

In the Asiatic, July 29.—There were two deaths from cholera in Alexandria to-day.

## GUARDING AGAINST YELLOW FEVER.

A TALK WITH SURGEON-GENERAL HAMILTON—NO DANGER FROM THE CALIFORNIA.

WASHINGTON, July 29.—Dr. Hamilton, Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service, gave to-night the facts with regard to the British steamship *California*, which was said to have arrived at Baltimore yesterday and to have been allowed to pass the Cape with yellow fever on board. He said: "The *California* sailed from Vera Cruz bound for Baltimore. She arrived at the Cape in the night and was taken up by the pilot in the night arriving at the Baltimore quarantine in the morning. No person was allowed to land from the vessel, nor even the pilot. The Health Commissioner at Baltimore, Dr. Benson, and I were at Fortress Monroe, where a telegram was sent to us from the quarantine physician at Baltimore at about 1 o'clock. An immediate reply was forwarded him to send the vessel back to the Cape, which was done, and she now lies at Lynn Haven beach, near Cape Henry. Surgeon Henry Smith, of the Marine Hospital Service, has been directed by telegram to-day to proceed to the relief of the sick men on board the vessel."

Dr. Hamilton said also that inasmuch as the *California* had not been allowed to land no harm had been done, and he added: "While on this subject I desire to say that ever since the foundation of this Government vessels have been allowed to come up to Baltimore quarantine, and there is not an instance on record of a vessel having been stopped at the Cape on account of having contagious disease on board until the present time. So far as the failure of the revenue cutter *Ewing* to intercept the vessel is concerned, it is due to Captain Warner to state that he had received no orders from the Secretary of the Treasury to intercept the vessel, the order to do so having been sent to him in the care of the Collector of Customs at Baltimore."

Speaking as to the plans for the future Dr. Hamilton stated that an arrangement had been entered into by which the Maryland and Virginia pilots will, in the case of all foreign vessels coming in bound for Chesapeake Bay, bring them to opposite quarantine anchorage at Lynn Haven Bay, where they will be inspected by Dr. Henry Smith, the quarantine officer of the Marine Hospital Service. As soon as the *Wedgworth*, which is now at New-York can be sent down, she will be sent to the station as the quarantine boat. In the meantime the boarding of vessels must be done by the quarantine physician with the boats attached to the harbor. He said also that the Secretary of the Treasury had to-day approved the resolutions adopted at the conference by the Boards of Health at Fortress Monroe yesterday. Among these resolutions was one drawn up by Dr. Benson, the Health Commissioner of Baltimore, requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the collector of the port of Baltimore to prevent the landing of passengers from the *California*. Dr. Hamilton said, would make necessary the placing of a patrol-boat between the Cape and the harbor.

## PRECAUTIONS AT FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., July 29.—Surgeon Henry Smith and Assistant Surgeon Glenison, of the Marine Hospital Service, have been here to-day carrying out the orders of the Surgeon-General in reference to quarantine. The hospital barge *Seiden* has been towed by the steamer *Fish Hawk* from Washington Cove to Fisherman's Inlet, where Cape Charles. The steamer *Andros*, which is bound for the coast, will probably die. Dr. Henry Smith, the quarantine officer of the Marine Hospital Service, has been here to-day carrying out the orders of the Surgeon-General in reference to quarantine. The hospital barge *Seiden* has been towed by the steamer *Fish Hawk* from Washington Cove to Fisherman's Inlet, where Cape Charles. The steamer *Andros*, which is bound for the coast, will probably die. Dr. Henry Smith, the quarantine officer of the Marine Hospital Service, has been here to-day carrying out the orders of the Surgeon-General in reference to quarantine. 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